

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

ACDA-12 IO-13 /091 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 107

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1798

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, CH, ID, SN, TH

SUBJECT: THAI FOREIGN MINISTER UPADIT BRIEFS GOS ON KRIANGSAK VISIT

REF: SINGAPORE 1507

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) THAI FOREIGN MINISTER UPADIT VISITED SINGAPORE APRIL 14-15 TO BRIEF GOS ON THAI PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK'S VISIT TO PEKING. IN APRIL 16 SUNDAY TIMES REPORT OF UPADIT MEETING WITH NEWSMEN, HE IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT PRC LEADERS EXPRESSED TO THAI PM THEIR "STRONG DESIRE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA." HOWEVER, CHINESE LEADERS UNDERSTAND SINGAPORE'S POSITION (THAT IT CANNOT PRECEDE INDONESIA IN ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH THE PRC), UPADIT IS QUOTED AS SAYING. COMMENTING ON HIS JUST COMPLETED VISIT TO INDONESIA, UPADIT SAID THAT INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA TOLD HIM THAT ALTHOUGH INDONESIA HAD BEGUN PREPARATIONS FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH PRC, GOI MUST PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY BECAUSE OF ITS LARGE RESIDENT CHINESE POPULATION AND BECAUSE OF "FEELINGS OF FRUS-
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TRATION RESULTING FROM THE ABORTIVE 1965 COUP MOUNTED BY THE COMMUNISTS IN INDONESIA."

2. TIMES STORY ALSO REPORTS UPADIT'S COMMENT THAT PRC "EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR ASEAN AND ITS PROPOSAL FOR THE SETTING UP OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA," AND THAT THE CHINESE LEADERS HAD ASKED PM KRIANGSAK TO CONVEY

THIS MESSAGE TO THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES. PEKING IS SAID TO BE PLEASED WITH GOOD RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH THAILAND, THE PHILIPPINES AND MALAYSIA. ASKED HOW CHINA WOULD SUPPORT ASEAN, UPADIT IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THIS WAS NOT GONE INTO IN DETAIL, BUT AS AN EXAMPLE OF CHINESE COOPERATION WITH AN ASEAN COUNTRY HE MENTIONED THE TRADE AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN THAILAND AND PRC DURING THE KRIANGSAK VISIT.

3. UPADIT'S REPORTED ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON CHINA'S SUPPORT FOR THAI EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE INDCHINA STATES IS EQUIVOCAL. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT CHINA DID NOT INDICATE DIRECTLY THAT IT WOULD HELP THAILAND ACHIEVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE THREE COUNTRIES, UPADIT IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "THE FACT THAT CHINA SUPPORTS ASEAN AND WELCOMED OUR FOREIGN POLICY COULD BE TAKEN TO MEAN THAT CHINA IS HELPING THAILAND TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE."

4. ACCORDING TO THE TIMES STORY, UPADIT SAID THAT BOTH THAILAND AND CAMBODIA BELIEVE THAT THE BORDER TROUBLES ARE CAUSED BY THIRD PARTIES; THAILAND BLAMING "COMMUNIST INSURGENTS WHO TAKE REFUGE IN CAMBODIAN TERRITORY," AND CAMBODIA BLAMING FOLLOWERS OF THE FORMER CAMBODIAN REGIME. HE IS SAID TO HAVE CALLED FOR GOODWILL AND PATIENCE ON BOTH SIDES TO SOLVE A PROBLEM WHICH IS COMPLICATED BY THE LENGTH OF THE BORDER AND BY THE "LACK OF COMMUNICATIONS ON THE CAMBODIAN SIDE." (END UNCLASSIFIED)
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5. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) MFA OFFICIALS CONTACTED THUS FAR HAVE HAD LITTLE TO ADD TO PRESS REPORTS OF UPADIT VISIT. THEY CONFIRM THAT THE MESSAGE CARRIED BY KRIANGSAK/UPADIT FROM THE PRC IS NEITHER WRITTEN NOR SOMETHING NEW, BUT IS A CONFIRMATION THAT THE PRC WISHES TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT THE PRC UNDERSTANDS SINGAPORE'S POLICY TO WAIT FOR INDONESIA.

6. MIDDLE-LEVEL MFA OFFICIAL ADDED THAT WHILE IT WAS ALL RIGHT FOR MALAYSIA AND OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES TO MOVE ON THEIR OWN TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, SHOULD SINGAPORE "GO OUT IN FRONT" IT WOULD BE LOOKED ON WITH SUSPICION. HE NOTED THAT THE DIFFICULTY FOR INDONESIA WAS ITS INABILITY TO COPE WITH ITS DOMESTIC POPULATION, AS A SYMPTOM OF WHICH HE NOTED THAT THE GOI DISTINGUISHED NOT BEEN CITIZEN AND NON-CITIZEN BUT BETWEEN PRIMBUMI (NATIVE) AND NON-PRIBUMI.

7. SINGAPORE'S OWN ATTITUDE TOWARD NORMALIZATION HE CHARACTERIZED AS BEING QUITE HAPPY TO GO SLOW. IT IS ENOUGH OF A PROBLEM, HE SAID, TO HAVE THE RUSSIANS ALWAYS BEING CONCERNED THAT THEY ARE GETTING EQUAL TREATMENT WITH THE AMERICANS WITHOUT HAVING

THE CHINESE ALSO DEMANDING EQUAL TREATMENT AS A BIG POWER.
HOLDRIDGE

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